

SAPC-3080 ✓

Copy 2 of 6

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Project Director

7 January 1956

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SUBJECT : Visit of Air Force Officer []

1. I received a call from KJ late in the day on 6 January in which he stated that the following six Air Force Officers have told him through some channel or other that they are planning a trip [] on 13 January: Generals Estes and Mitchell and Colonels Apold, Brewer, Harrington and Maxwell. I recognize the last three men on this list as the three who are in charge of the Air Force procurement of "the angel" and told Kelly that we knew and approved of their intended visit. I also told him that Colonel Apold had been given some information about this project but that I personally was not aware that Generals Estes and Mitchell were fully witting of it.

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2. I promised Kelly that we would advise him promptly of the degree of knowledgeability of Estes, Mitchell and Apold and would also confirm to him that they were cleared to visit [] I believe a message should go out on 9 January [] to Burbank for [] and Kelly clearing all these people, if such clearance is appropriate, and advising all concerned whether these officers are fully knowledgeable of AQUATONE. I have already told Kelly that Brewer, Harrington and Maxwell are fully knowledgeable.

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3. Although I doubt whether we can do anything about this trip and indeed it may serve a useful purpose, this incident has raised again in my mind a serious concern about the spread of knowledge of this project in the Air Force. From the beginning of this project we rejected what I regard as the "town Meeting" approach that seems to me typical of ARDC and AMC. What I mean is the approach whereby every special interest (such as power plants in the case of Colonel Apold) is allowed to join in extensive and very wide-spread discussion of a development program. It seems to me that we are rapidly sliding into a position where literally hundreds of senior Air Force Officers have been and are being cut in on AQUATONE, not because they have any real need to know or because we expect any contribution from them or support but only because they are in the habit of knowing about projects of this sort which are handled through regular Air Force channels. I have a dim recollection that General

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25X1A Estes was cut in on the project early in the game and I know that Colonel Apold has been told something about it more recently. If Maxwell is in the same status I am sure nothing will be gained by discouraging their trip to [redacted] Indeed, it would be far better to encourage them and secure their cooperation and support. I do feel, however, that we should review with Colonel Berg the extent of knowledgeability in the Air Force and launch a new campaign to clamp down.

4. In the above-referred to conversation with Kelly, he made a suggestion which seems to me to have great merit. It is that the Air Force plant representative at Lockheed, Colonel Charles Moore, now be made knowledgeable of AQUATONE. In support of this proposal Kelly says that Colonel Moore, though excluded from any knowledgeability, has been most cooperative in keeping AQUATONE under cover and that it will promote rather than impair security to have him more fully knowledgeable now that procurement is being initiated for the Air Force itself. I concur in this view. If you agree would you set in motion the necessary clearance for Colonel Moore. Would you also advise Kelly that we are proceeding with his clearance and that he will be cut in shortly.

RMB
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Project Director

cc: Project Security Offr

RMB:djm

1-Addressee

2-RMB Chrono

3-Project Security Offr

4-Project Subj

5-Project Chrono

6-Project Reading

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